

Message Text

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15

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INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: UUUC REITERATES REFUSAL TO DISCUSS POWER SHARING

1. UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) REPORTEDLY SENT LETTER TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND MERLYN REES JAN. 14 REITERATING REFUSAL TO DISCUSS POWER SHARING WITH MINORITY PARTIES IN RENEWED CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE BEGIN FEB. 3 FOR ONE MONTH PERIOD. UUUC TACTIC WILL PROBABLY BE TO USE ITS MAJORITY IN BUSINESS COMMITTEE AND ON FLOOR TO BLOCK DISCUSSION.

2. HARRY WEST LEADER OF OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY SAID IN RADIO INTERVIEW THERE NO POINT IN DISCUSSING CHANGES IN PROPOSALS THAT REFLECTED WILL OF MAJORITY OF VOTERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, THAT HAD GAINED "WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE" OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THAT HAD BEEN TOTALLY REJECTED ONLY BY MINORITY PARTIES NORTHERN IRELAND. HE SAID IT UP TO MINORITY PARTIES TO GIVE THIS ACCEPTANCE IN CONVENTION. HE REPEATED HIS BELIEF, SHARED HE SAID BY MANY CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERTS IN U.K., THAT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SYSTEM PROPOSED IN CONVENTION REPORT WAS MOST GENEROUS TREATMENT OF MINORITY IN GOVERNMENT IN HISTORY. WEST SAID (AS HAS IAN PAISLEY)

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THAT HE WOULD WELCOME ELECTION TO DETERMINE HOW PEOPLE OF

NORTHERN IRELAND STOOD ON ISSUE. IF UUUC LOST HE SAID, THEY WOULD TAKE PLACE AS LOYAL OPPOSITION. THERE NO CHANGE IN UUUC REFUSAL PARTICIPATE IN INTER-PARTY TALKS OUTSIDE CONVENTION. THERE ALSO NO SIGN THAT MINORITY PARTIES MOVING TOWARD A COALITION.

3. NEWS LETTER (ANTI-NATIONALIST) JAN. 15 REPORTED PADDY DEVLIN CHAIRMAN OF CONVENTION GROUP FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) HAD STATED HE AND PARTY WOULD WELCOME ELECTION. CONGEN UNABLE REACH DEVLIN BUT JOHN HUME DEPUTY SDLP LEADER SAID HE DOUBTED DEVLIN HAD MADE STATEMENT. ACCORDING HUME "IT IS CONTRARY TO OUR WAY OF THINKING" AND "VOTERS WOULD JUST STAY AWAY."

SPICER

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Message Attributes

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